

Minutes  
Catawba County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Session, Tuesday, September 3, 2002, 9:30 a.m.

**Agreements**

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Agreement with WPCOG to administer aforementioned grant	433	09-03-02

**Appointments**

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**Catawba County Extension**

LifeSkills programming to Catawba County Schools	430	09/03/02
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Robert Braswell, Hickory Public Schools Board of Education Member	429	09/03/02
Reverend Joel Cherry, representing Sherrills Ford/Terrell Fire and Rescue	430	09/03/02

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**Western Piedmont Council of Governments**

Acceptance of Grant Agreement from NC Department of Commerce for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Project	433	09/03/02
Agreement with WPCOG to administer aforementioned grant	433	09-03-02

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 3, 2002, 9:30 a.m., at the 1924 Courthouse, Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina. Note: This meeting was rescheduled from the Board's normal first Monday meeting due to the Labor Day holiday.

Present were Chairman W. Steve Ikerd, Vice-Chair Marie H. Huffman, and Commissioners Katherine W. Barnes, Barbara G. Beatty and Dan A. Hunsucker.

Absent: None.

A quorum was present.

Also present were County Manager/Deputy Clerk J. Thomas Lundy, Deputy County Manager Steven D. Wyatt, Assistant County Manager Mick W. Berry, County Attorney Robert Oren Eades, County Staff Attorney Debra Bechtel, and County Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney.

1. Chairman Ikerd called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. Invocation was offered by Commissioner Barnes.
3. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular session of Monday, August 19, 2002. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Special Guests:

Chairman Ikerd recognized Mr. Lewis Woods, NAACP, and Mr. Robert Braswell, Hickory Public Schools Board of Education Member.

5. Presentation of Proclamations:
  - a. Always Remember 9-11 Day.

Commissioner Huffman presented the Always Remember 9-11 Day Proclamation to Emergency Services Director Charles E. Moody, Jr., and Sheriff L. David Huffman.

Sheriff Huffman said the events of 9-11 changed all of our lives. He said Catawba County sent teams of people to New York to assist with the disaster. He said we need funding from the federal government for continued planning and training.

Emergency Services Director Moody said the county was prepared to a certain extent. He said New York had more resources than the state of North Carolina. He said planning resources are critical and the first round of funding is due in October or November and will be forthcoming for a number of years. He said Sheriff Huffman had arranged for someone from Homeland Security to visit Catawba County to speak to fire, rescue and law enforcement personnel.

- b. Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

Commissioner Barnes presented the Prostate Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation to Gary Skinner, Coordinator, Catawba County Prostate Cancer Task Force.

Mr. Skinner thanked the Board for its continued support. He said free prostate cancer screenings would be offered at Frye Regional Medical Center on September 16th and 17th and Catawba Valley Medical Center on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of September, 2002.

- c. Environmental Awareness Week.

Commissioner Hunsucker presented the Environmental Awareness Week Proclamation to Worth Killian and Ray Henderson, Supervisors of the Catawba Soil and Water Conservation District.

Mr. Henderson thanked the Board for the support.

- d. Litter Sweep Weeks.

Commissioner Beatty presented the Litter Sweep Proclamation to Barry B. Edwards, Utilities and Engineering Director.

Mr. Edwards said during the last litter sweep a total of 165 bags of waste were collected which amounted to approximately two tons.

6. Special guests not listed on agenda.

Reverend Joel Cherry, representing Sherrills Ford/Terrell Fire and Rescue, requested that the Board endorsed a proposal for a fundraiser for a former employee of Michael Waltrip Racing, Inc. The Sherrills Ford/Terrell Fire and Rescue will receive an equitable division of the funds raised. Mr. Randall Bradford, a Sherrills Ford resident, has been in treatment for cancer and due to Mr. Bradford's health his employment with Michael Waltrip Racing was terminated, leaving him without health insurance. The fundraising event will be held at the Sherrills Ford/Terrell Fire and Rescue Department on Wednesday, October 9, 2002, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. There will be several drivers to sign autographs, show cars on display, t-shirts and hats for sell designed especially for the event, a collection of sheet metal for sale, and 1,000 tires for sale at \$25 each. Race teams have agreed to furnish uniforms and helmets for an auction. Games are planned for the children and there will be an arts and crafts area. There will be a charge to get into the event (possibly \$5 to \$10) and concessions may be sold. It is anticipate several hundred up to 25,000 will attend the event.

Commissioner Beatty asked about parking.

Reverend Cherry said there are a lot of fields in the area that could be used for parking and they would also have to talk with the state and may need to make Sherrills Ford Road a one-way road for several hours.

Chairman Ikerd made a motion to endorse the fundraiser. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Appointments:

Chairman Ikerd made a motion to reappoint Jeff Mitchell to the Subdivision Review Board for a first, 2-year term which will expire June 30, 2004. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Consent agenda:

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy presented the following consent agenda items:

- a. Acceptance of \$11,064 in funding from Catawba County Schools to provide LifeSkills programming to Catawba County students.

Mr. Lundy said the number of students in Catawba County who use illegal substances continues to increase. Cooperative Extension is working cooperatively with Catawba County Schools to offer the LifeSkills curriculum to all elementary students in exit (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>) grades in the Catawba County Schools in the 2002-03 school year. LifeSkills will be used to meet the school's goal of providing substance abuse prevention education for students. LifeSkills will be used in collaboration with DARE for middle school students.

LifeSkills is a nationally used and tested substance abuse resistance education program. LifeSkills provides students with the skills needed to avoid high-risk behaviors. The program combines coaching, peer interaction and instruction to strengthen student's abilities in drug resistance skills, personal self-management, and general social skills. It addresses the use of the gateway drugs – tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana. LifeSkills has been in use for approximately 15 years and studies have shown it is effective in reducing substance use among teens when implemented as designed.

Cooperative Extension has used LifeSkills for the past two years in community-based settings. Donna Mull, Catawba County 4-H Agent, has been trained to use the program as part of an initiative by the National 4-H Council.

The LifeSkills program will support the following 2002-03 outcome:

"One thousand students will acquire new knowledge, build life skills and develop positive interests as a result of participating in a variety of 4-H special interest programs and camps. Changes in knowledge and skills will be measured by written program evaluations."

Each student will receive 6.75 hours of LifeSkills instruction offered in 45-minute sessions for 9 weeks. A part-time temporary employee will be hired to assist with providing LifeSkills instruction in the classrooms. The individual will be working approximately 600 hours during the school year. Donna Mull, 4-H Agent with the Cooperative Extension Service, will also be providing classroom instruction.

Personnel has reviewed and recommended grade 99 and a pay range of \$9.75 to \$15 per hour. Personnel also recommends that the position be established as time limited ending with the school year.

The Finance and Personnel Subcommittee recommended that the Board of Commissioners accept funding in the amount of \$11,064 from Catawba County Schools to be used to implement the LifeSkills program and create a part-time temporary human service position to provide LifeSkills instruction for students, and approve the following appropriations:

Appropriations: (General Fund - Cooperative Extension)		
110-310050-812500	Part-time Wages	\$ 7,616
110-310050-821100	FICA	\$ 584
110-310050-841010	Travel	\$ 864
110-310050-841020	Training/Education	<u>\$ 2,000</u>
		\$11,064
Revenue:		
110-310050-650210	County Schools-LifeSkills	\$11,064

b. Surplus of Narcotics Vehicle to Maiden Police Department.

Mr. Lundy said the Finance and Personnel Subcommittee recommended that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Catawba County Sheriff's Office, Narcotics Division, to transfer a 1998 Dodge Intrepid to the Maiden Police Department for their continued commitment of an officer to assist the Narcotics Division. The Intrepid has approximately 67,000 miles and has become known in the drug community. The Narcotics Division recently seized a 1998 Ford Expedition, Eddie Bauer Edition in excellent shape. The Division paid off a lien on the Ford Expedition in order to replace the Intrepid. The Maiden Police Department has worked actively with County officers for approximately ten years assigning one officer to work on an ongoing basis with the Narcotics Division on investigations. The Maiden Police Department has not received a vehicle of any suitable use during this period of time and they would like a vehicle instead of a share of the Narcotics Seized Funds and have agreed to accept the Intrepid the County is replacing.

c. Resolution for Sheriff's Multi-Agency Traffic Interdiction Unit Continuation Funds.

Mr. Lundy said the Sheriff's Office recommends that the Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution for the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program for the Sheriff's Multi-Agency Traffic Interdiction Unit. In July 2000 the Catawba County Sheriff's Office along with the Burke, McDowell, Rowan, Iredell, and Davie County Sheriffs' Offices received a grant from the Governor's Highway Program to fund equipment and personnel for a six-agency traffic interdiction unit. Under this program, the six agencies work together to conduct traffic interdictions along the I-40 Corridor and other major highways in each of the counties in order to improve overall traffic conditions on these roads and improve the safety of citizens, in each county, that travel these highways. The two-officer traffic unit has worked well with the other five counties to improve highway safety. The unit completed its first year anniversary in September 2001. During that time officers participated in at least one multi-county traffic enforcement project per month, provided traffic safety training in local schools, and attended specialized training in traffic enforcement. The combined six county team worked 23,040 hours, delivered traffic safety presentations to approximately 13,367 people, and issued 5,634 traffic citations including DWI, speeding, seat belt and restraint charges, driving while license revoked, and other traffic offenses. This fiscal year, Catawba County's two officers issued 2,312 traffic citations and 85 criminal citations. The traffic team's efforts appear to be improving highway safety as Catawba

County's ranking went up from 23 to 42 in terms of the number of wrecks occurring within the county in comparison to the other 99 counties in the state. In the first year of the grant, the Catawba County Sheriff's Office received federal funding for two deputies' salaries, benefits, and training at 100% up to \$75,000 and funding for equipment and indirect costs at 75% up to \$75,240 with a total investment of \$25,080 from the Narcotics Seized Funds required in matching money. During the second year of the grant the Sheriff's Office received funding for two deputies salary, benefits at 75% and other continuing costs at 50% resulting in \$64,097.50 in federal funding for a \$22,032.50 local investment. The request for the final year will cover the cost of 50% of salaries and benefits for two officers and 25% of other continuing costs for a total of \$44,211 in federal funds for a local investment of \$50,211. The grant funds and matching funds were included in the approved Sheriff's Office fiscal year 2002-2003 budget. The attached resolution is required by the Governor's Highway Safety Program to process the third year application. The third year of the grant will start on October 1, 2002.

**Resolution No. 2002-19  
North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program**

WHEREAS, the Catawba County Sheriff's Office (herein called the "Agency") has completed an application contract entitled Sheriff's Multi-Agency Traffic Interdiction Unit;

and that the Catawba County Board of Commissioners (herein called the "Governing Body") has thoroughly considered the problem identified and has reviewed the project as described in the contract;

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED by the Catawba County Board of Commissioners in open meeting assembled in the City of Newton, North Carolina.

This 3rd day of September, 2002, as follows:

1. That the project referenced above is in the best interest of the Governing Body and the general public; and
2. That L. David Huffman, Sheriff be authorized to file, on behalf of the Governing Body, an application contract in the form prescribed by the Governor's Highway Safety Program for federal funding in the amount of \$44,211 to be made to the Governing Body to assist in defraying the cost of the project described in the contract application; and
3. That the Governing Body has formally appropriated the cash contribution of \$50,211 as required by the project contract; and
4. That the Project Director designated in the application contract shall furnish or make arrangement for other appropriate persons to furnish such information, data, documents and reports as required by the contract, if approved, or as may be required by the Governor's Highway Safety Program; and
5. That certified copies of this resolution be included as part of the contract referenced above; and
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

/s/ W. Steve Ikerd, Chairman  
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Attest: /s/ Thelda B. Rhoney, Clerk

Date: September 3, 2002.

Commissioner Huffman made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. The motion carried unanimously.

**End Consent**

a. Economic Development:

1. Acceptance of Grant Agreement from North Carolina Department of Commerce for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Project. (Copy of Agreement on file in the Office of Finance Director.)

Ms. Sherry Long, Director of Community Development, Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) said the \$80,000 CDBG matching grant was developed to assist Alexander, Avery, Burke, Catawba, Caldwell, Iredell, Lincoln, McDowell, Mitchell, Rutherford, Watauga, and Wilkes Counties for the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Strategies developed through this process will provide new direction for the economy of our County as well as renewed opportunities for our unemployed and underemployed workers. The NC Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance, awarded the \$80,000 grant to Catawba County on behalf of all of the 12 counties. Catawba County in turn will provide these funds to the WPCOG who will contract with the CEDS consultant. WPCOG will act as the County's representative in administering the CEDS process. She requested the Board accept the matching Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Project in the amount of \$80,000, approve a budget ordinance, and agreement with the WPCOG for grant administration.

She said the \$80,000 grant combined with a \$320,000 grant to the WPCOG is for a \$400,000 study. She said the RFP was developed and sent 43 proposals to consulting firms and received 12 proposals. Congressman Ballenger appointed a subcommittee to review the proposals. The subcommittee accepted the proposal from The Center For Regional Economic Competitiveness, in Arlington, Virginia. They will work in conjunction with the Hudson Institute from Indianapolis, Indiana, UNC-Charlotte, and Eva Cline & Associates from Washington, DC. Each of the consultants have different lines of expertise and will bring a good comprehensive study. They have a particular interest in federal, state and local efforts to strengthen the competitiveness of our existing manufacturing base and to identify emerging new sectors that will offer jobs for that are dislocated. She said the consultant will interview up to 150 people in the area. She said this study puts our area in line for EDA funding in the future.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2002-09**

**CATAWBA COUNTY PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE  
FOR THE 2002 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CEDS) PROJECT**

Be it ordained by the Catawba County Board of Commissioners that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project ordinance is hereby adopted.

Section 1. The project authorized is the Community Development Project described in the work statement contained in the Grant Agreement (#02-P-0972) between this unit and the Department of Commerce. This project is more familiarly known as the 2002 CEDS Project.

Section 2. The officers of this unit are hereby directed to proceed with the grant project within the terms of the grant document(s), the rules and regulations of the Department of Commerce, and the budget contained herein.

Section 3. The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete this project.

Revenues

Community Development Block Grant	<u>\$80,000</u>
	\$80,000

Section 4. The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

Expenditures

Contract with the WPCOG	<u>\$80,000</u>
	\$80,000

Section 5. The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain within the Grant Project Fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to provide the accounting to the grantor agency required by the grant agreement(s) and federal and state regulations.

Section 6. Funds may be advanced from the General Fund for the purpose of making payments as due. Reimbursement requests should be made to the grantor agency in an orderly and timely manner.

Section 7. The Finance Officer is directed to report quarterly on the financial status of each project element in Section 4 and on the total grant revenues received or claimed.

Section 8. The Budget Officer is directed to include a detailed analysis of past and future costs and revenues on this grant project in every budget submission made to this Board.

Section 9. Copies of this grant project ordinance shall be made available to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.

Adopted this the 3rd day of September, 2002.

/s/ W. Steve Ikerd, Chairman  
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

/s/ Thelda B. Rhoney  
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Barnes made a motion to accept the grant. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Tax Office:

1. Formal presentation of the 2003 Schedule of Values, Standards, and Rules.

Tax Administrator/Assessor Randall W. Moose formally presented the proposed Schedule of Values, Standards, and Rules for Catawba County's 2003 Revaluation.

Mr. Moose said Catawba County's next countywide revaluation will become effective January 1, 2003. North Carolina mandates that all real property be reappraised at least every eight years. NCGS 105-286 divides the counties of the State into eight groups and establishes a base revaluation year for each group. Each county must conduct a general revaluation of real property in the base year for its group and every eighth year thereafter. This establishes the minimum level of effort required of the county. A county can find it desirable to revalue real property before the end of its current eight-year cycle. The law places no obstacles in the path of a county wanting to do so. About one third of the State's counties have moved to cycles of four or five years rather than eight. The legal effect of conducting a revaluation earlier than the law specifies is simply to require that the next revaluation take place no later than eight years later; the county is not thereafter bound to adhere to the shorter cycle. Upon a resolution passed by the Catawba County Board of Commissioners June 7, 1999, the next revaluation was advanced to an effective date of January 1, 2003.

NCGS 105-317 sets forth the essential elements of a mass appraisal system, which is a massive project. Catawba County has more than 80,000 separate parcels of land which must be individually appraised. The State has established "market value" as the standard by which all real property is to be assessed. Market value is defined as "the price estimated in terms of money at which the property would change hands between a willing and financially able buyer and a willing seller, neither being under any compulsion to buy or to sell and both having



reasonable knowledge of all the uses to which the property is adapted and for which it is capable of being used". County staff has worked for many months researching and analyzing local property sales, building data, cost data, etc., culminating in the formulation of an appraisal manual, or as the statute describes it, a "uniform schedule of values, standards, and rules" to be used in appraising real property in the county. The schedule is formulated from three primary sources: the local real estate market, nationally developed data of the cost of building construction adjusted to reflect local building costs, and income and expense data from income producing properties in the county.

The appraisal staff also established a special schedule for appraising eligible agricultural, horticultural and forest land at its present use value which is part of the schedule. This is a statewide schedule prepared by the Department of Revenue with the assistance of the Use-Value Advisory Board, which is composed of representatives of the Cooperative Extension Service, the NC Department of Agriculture, and the State Division of Forest Resources.

Properties whose owners qualify for present use assessment will receive two values – a market value mandated by law and the present use value. Those under the present use schedule at this time will not have to reapply.

A special meeting was held by you on August 19, 2002, at the Catawba County Government Center where Tax Office Staff gave a presentation on the revaluation process and formulation of the Schedule of Values.

Then on Tuesday, August 20, 2002, a Value Review Committee met to scrutinize the proposed Schedule of Values, and unanimously offered their opinion that the Schedule is legal, accurate, and when utilized properly, generates a fair estimate of market value for real property in Catawba County. Members of the Board of Equalization and Review served on the Value Review Committee.

Adoption of the Schedule of Values is a most important step in a revaluation. Because of its importance, the Machinery Act requires the Board of Commissioners to adopt it after holding a public hearing and then placing a newspaper notice stating that it has done so. Property owners then have 30 days to challenge the Schedule of Values by appeal to the State Property Tax Commission.

In accordance with NCGS 105-317(c), the Schedule of Values must be formally presented to the Board not less than 21 days before the meeting at which it will be considered. After the formal presentation the Board must notify the public through newspapers of general circulation that it has received the schedule and that it is open for inspection at the Assessor's office. The notice must also inform the public that a public hearing will be held, giving the specific date, time, and place. This public hearing must be at least seven days before the Board's adoption of the schedule. The staff recommends the public hearing be scheduled for September 16, 2002, at 7:00 p.m., in the Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room of the 1924 Courthouse.

It is anticipated the formal adoption will be during the October 7, 2002, meeting in the Robert E Hibbitts Meeting Room of the 1924 Courthouse. Afterwards a newspaper notice must be published stating that the schedule has been adopted and that property owners have 30 days from the date of the first publication to challenge the schedule by appeal to the State Property Tax Commission on grounds that the schedule does not adhere to the appropriate statutory valuation standard (that is, that they will produce values that are too high, too low, or inconsistent). The Commission has the power to order the Board of Commissioners to revise the schedule if they do not adhere to the statutory valuation standard. The Commissioners decision may be appealed to the N.C. Court of Appeals. If the adoption is October 7, the property owners will have until Thursday, November 7, 2002, to challenge the schedule.

In accordance with NCGS 05-317(c), the following notice must be published after the formal presentation:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
TO CONSIDER THE UNIFORM SCHEDULE OF VALUES, STANDARDS AND RULES FOR  
THE 2003 REVALUATION OF PROPERTY

CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TAKE NOTICE that under the requirements of NCGS 105-286(a)(1)&(2) Catawba County is required to reappraise all real property as of January 1, 2003. In preparation for this revaluation of property, the Catawba County Assessor has developed a uniform schedule of values, standards and rules to be used in appraising real property at its true value and at its present use value.

Pursuant to NCGS 105-317(c), on September 3, 2002, the Assessor submitted the proposed schedule of values, standards and rules to the Catawba County Board of Commissioners for its consideration. A copy of the proposed schedule is filed in the Office of the Assessor and shall be available for public inspection during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Office of the Assessor is located on the first floor of the Catawba County Government Center in Newton, North Carolina.

On September 16, 2002, at 7:00 p.m., in the Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room of the 1924 Courthouse, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina, the Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the proposed schedule before adoption of the final schedule on Monday, October 7, 2002. Property owners have a right to appear at the public hearing to comment on the schedule.

Individuals needing assistance should contact the County Clerk at 465-8209 (TDD 465-8200) within a reasonable time prior to the meeting. Access to the 1924 Courthouse for individuals with disabilities is at the south side ("A" street). The elevator is located at the north end of the building. Participation in public meetings is without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability.

PUBLISH (BLOCK AD) Wednesday, September 4, 2002

PUBLISH IN: HICKORY DAILY RECORD  
OBSERVER-NEWS-ENTERPRISE

ADOPTION OF THE UNIFORM SCHEDULE OF VALUES, STANDARDS  
AND RULES FOR CATAWBA COUNTY'S 2003 REVALUATION

NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that the uniform schedule of values, standards and rules to be used in the next scheduled appraisal of real property in Catawba County has been adopted by the Board of County Commissioners. It shall be open for examination in the Office of the Catawba County Assessor between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday until November 7, 2002. The Office of the Assessor is located on the first floor of the Catawba County Government Center, located at 100 A South West Boulevard in Newton, North Carolina.

Any property owner who asserts that the schedule of values, standards, and rules are invalid may take exception to the order and appeal to the Property Tax Commission within 30 days beginning October 9, 2002.

PUBLISH (BLOCK AD) October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2002

PUBLISH IN: HICKORY DAILY RECORD  
OBSERVER-NEWS-ENTERPRISE

Mr. Moose presented the following timeline:

TIMELINE FOR ADOPTION OF 2003 SCHEDULE OF VALUES

Tuesday, September 3, 2002 -- 9:30 am, 1924 Courthouse

Formal presentation of the 2003 Schedule of Values, Standards, and Rules to the Board of Commissioners by the Assessor.

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Board must publish in newspaper that (1) Proposed Schedule of Values have been submitted, (2) Schedule of Values are available for public inspection in Assessor's Office, and (3) State time and location of public hearing on the proposed Schedule.

Monday, September 16, 2002 -- 7:00 p.m., 1924 Courthouse

Public hearing on the Schedule of Values.

Monday, October 7, 2002 -- 9:30 a.m., 1924 Courthouse

Formal adoption of the Schedule of Values by the Board.

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Board publishes 1<sup>st</sup> notice of adoption in newspaper. (Taxpayer must appeal adoption within 30 days of this date).

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Publish 2<sup>nd</sup> notice of adoption.

Wednesday, October 23, 2002

Publish 3<sup>rd</sup> notice of adoption.

Wednesday, October 30, 2002

Publish 4<sup>th</sup> notice of adoption. (Four notices are required by Statute).

Thursday, November 7, 2002

Last day for taxpayer to appeal adoption of the Schedule of Values.

Mr. Moose said they have a web page on the County's web site in a question and answer format that should be available today.

Mr. Moose presented the Schedule to Chairman Ikerd. In accordance with NCGS 105-317(c), the Chairman accepted the schedule on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and requested that each Board Member review the schedule. He said the public hearing on the Schedule of Values will be held at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on September 16, 2002, 7:00 p.m. at the 1924 Courthouse, Newton, North Carolina.

10. Attorneys' Report.

a. Amendment to Landfill Site Alternatives Study Factors

County Attorney Robert Oren Eades said the Board approved four factors for the engineers to use to analyze and evaluate alternative sites for the Blackburn Landfill at its regularly scheduled July 8, 2002 meeting. One of the factors that alternative sites must include not less than 600 acres and must consist of a single parcel or contiguous parcels owned by not more than five property owners has proven to be unworkable after working with the GIS Department and CDM, the engineering firm. He requested the Board repealed that factor and adopt a factor in its place that not less than 600 acres consisting of not more than three parcels.

Commissioner Beatty made a motion regarding factors for the landfill site alternatives study to repeal that alternative sites must include not less than 600 acres and must consist of a single parcel or contiguous parcels owned by not more than five property owners and to adopt a factor that not less than 600 acres consists of not more than three parcels. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Manager's Report. None.

12. Other items of business:

a. Local Reimbursements in 2002-03.

Chairman Ikerd read the following letter from Governor Easley:

"August 30, 2002

Dear Chairman:

As you know, the State will not be able to provide the local reimbursements in 2002-03 to you because the sources supporting the reimbursements no longer exist and because the House and Senate proposed budgets do not include them. Those affected expenditures include the reimbursements for the repealed intangibles tax and the inventory property tax. In prior years, these distributions were made on August 30 and September 30 respectively. State payments in lieu of sales and use tax on food stamps and for the homestead exemption are also affected.

Regrettably, the General Assembly has not yet approved another local revenue stream to replace the reimbursements for this year. The Senate proposal, as you know, would provide a comprehensive plan to replace the reimbursements. Many members of the House also support such a proposal. I believe that now is the best opportunity for you to obtain access to a revenue stream that will grow over time in pace with your needs.

I urge you to let your elected representatives know how critical a stable revenue source is to your budget and for the provision of crucial local services. I assure you that I support you on these matters. Together, I believe that we can obtain sufficient support in the General Assembly to do what is right for local governments.

With kindest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,  
Michael F. Easley"

Chairman Ikerd said again Catawba County Commissioners as well as all other commissioners in the state and city officials do not have another choice for revenues except property tax. He said for five years the commissioners have lobbied for a 1 cent sales tax throughout the state for counties to grow schools and provide other needs, which has been denied time after time. He said the only other choice is the possibility of a 1/2 cent sales tax, which will only bring the County back to a certain level where the County was at previously. He urged the citizens to send the governor a message that this is not acceptable.

13. Adjournment.

At 10:15 a.m., there being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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W. Steve Ikerd, Chairman  
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

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Thelda B. Rhoney  
County Clerk